

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 24, AMEND claims 19, 23, 25, 31-34 and 36 and ADD new claims 37-39 in accordance with the following:

Claims 1-18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a transmission channel for transmission and sending a message from a mobile terminal to a base station, comprising:

initially sending from the mobile terminal a send authorization request signal for a specific transmission channel to the base station;

sending from the base station to the mobile terminal a response signal containing a first decision value, wherein a first set of signature character sequences is used for encoding the first decision value in the response signal, the first decision value indicating whether the mobile terminal is authorized to send a message on the specific transmission channel and, if the first decision value indicates the mobile terminal is refused authorization to use the specific transmission channel and the mobile terminal is authorized to send a message on another transmission channel, the response signal including a second decision value, wherein said second decision value in the response signal is encoded using at least one signature character sequence orthogonal to the first set of signature character sequences, and wherein the at least one signature character sequence used for encoding the second decision value is created by multiplying only each second character of a signature character sequence of the first signature character sequence set by -1;

analyzing by the mobile terminal, upon detection that the first decision value in the response signal is negative, the response signal to determine whether the second decision value is included in the response signal, indicating authorization of the mobile terminal to send a message on another transmission channel, and which other transmission channels are available for use by the mobile terminal; and

sending the message by the mobile terminal to the base station on one of the transmission channels available.

20. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 19, wherein a transmission channel to be selected is one of a number of logical channels implemented by using different channelization codes on a physical transmission channel used jointly by a number of terminals for transfer of messages to the base station.

21. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 20, wherein said sending of the response signal includes channel status information therein indicating to the mobile terminal which of the other transmission channels are available for sending the message.

22. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 21, wherein said sending of the response signal includes encoding at least one of the second decision value and the channel status information, when included, so that the first decision value can be decoded unchanged by the mobile terminal, regardless of whether the second decision value is included in the response signal.

23. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 22,  
~~wherein a first set of signature character sequences is used for encoding the first~~  
~~decision value in the response signal, and wherein said encoding of the at least one of the~~  
~~second decision value and the channel status information in the response signal uses the~~ at  
least one signature character sequence orthogonal to the first set of signature character  
sequences.

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim ~~24~~ 23, wherein said encoding of the at least one of the second decision value and the channel status information in the response signal uses a second set of signature character sequences, with each signature character sequence of the second set of signature character sequence set sentences being created from a corresponding signature character sequence of the first set of signature character sequence set sequences by multiplying each second character by -1.

26. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 23, wherein said encoding of the at least one of the second decision value and the channel status information in the response signal uses a character string encoded with a specific signature character sequence orthogonal to the first signature character sequence set to jointly transfer the second decision value with the channel status information.

27. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 26, wherein the specific signature character sequence is assigned to the base station.

28. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 25,  
wherein the first signature character sequence set is assigned to a specific transmission channel over which the mobile terminal has previously sent an access preamble to the base station, and

wherein said encoding of the second decision value uses a specific signature character sequence orthogonal to the first signature character sequence set.

29. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 28, wherein the channel status information includes a third decision value for each occupied transmission channel indicating unavailability.

30. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 29, wherein said sending of the response signal includes encoding each of the third decision values with the signature character sequences from the first set of signature character sequences assigned to the occupied transmission channels.

31. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 29, wherein said sending of the response signal includes encoding each of the third decision values with signature character sequences of the second set of signature character sequences assigned to available occupied transmission channels, respectively.

32. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a transmission channel for transmission of messages from a mobile terminal to a base station, comprising:

initially receiving at the base station of the mobile terminal a send authorization request signal for a specific transmission channel; and

sending from the base station to the mobile terminal a response signal containing a first decision value, wherein a first set of signature character sequences is used for encoding the first decision value in the response signal, the first decision value indicating whether the mobile terminal is authorized to send a message on the specific transmission channel and, if the first decision value indicates the mobile terminal is refused authorization to use the specific transmission channel and the mobile terminal is authorized to send a message on another transmission channel, the response signal including a second decision value, wherein said second decision value in the response signal is encoded using at least one signature character sequence orthogonal to the first set of signature character sequences, and wherein the at least one signature character sequence used for encoding the second decision value is created by multiplying only each second character of a signature character sequence of the first set of signature character sequences by -1.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a transmission channel and transmission of messages from a mobile terminal to a base station, comprising:

initially sending from the mobile terminal to the base station an access preamble for a specific transmission channel;

receiving a response signal at the mobile terminal from the base station;

detecting at the mobile terminal a first decision value in the response signal, wherein a first set of signature character sequences is used for encoding the first decision value in the response signal, the first decision value indicating whether the mobile terminal is authorized to send a message on the specific transmission channel;

analyzing at the mobile terminal, upon detection that the first decision value indicates refusal of authorization for the mobile terminal to send the message on the specific transmission channel, the response signal to determine whether a second decision value therein indicates authorization for the mobile terminal to send the message on another transmission channel and which other transmission channels are available, wherein said second decision value in the response signal is encoded using at least one signature character sequence orthogonal to the first set of signature character sequences, and wherein the at least one signature character sequence used for encoding the second decision value is created by multiplying only each second character of a signature character sequence of the first set of signature character sequences by -1; and

sending the message by the mobile terminal to the base station on one of the transmission channels available.

34. (Currently Amended) A base station with a transceiver unit and a processor unit for selecting a transmission channel for transmission of messages from a mobile terminal to the base station, comprising

a decoding device detecting a send authorization request signal sent by the mobile terminal for a specific transmission channel;

a channel release unit determining which transmission channels are currently available for sending a message; and

an encoding device generating a response signal to the mobile terminal containing a first decision value, wherein a first set of signature character sequences is used for encoding the first decision value in the response signal, the first decision value indicating whether the mobile terminal is authorized to send the message on the specific transmission channel and containing a second decision value when the first decision value indicates refusal of authorization for the mobile terminal to send the message on the specific transmission channel and the mobile terminal is authorized to send a message on another transmission channel, wherein said second decision value in the response signal is encoded using at least one signature character sequence orthogonal to the first set of signature character sequences, and wherein the at least one signature character sequence used for encoding the second decision value is created by multiplying only each second character of a signature character sequence of the first set of signature character sequences by -1.

35. (Previously Presented) A mobile radio network with a number of base stations in accordance with claim 34.

36. (Currently Amended) A mobile terminal selecting a transmission channel for transmission of messages from the mobile terminal to a base station, comprising:

a processor generating a send authorization request signal for a specific transmission channel and decoding a response signal sent by the base station to detect a first decision value, wherein a first set of signature character sequences is used for encoding the first decision value in the response signal, the first decision value indicating whether the mobile terminal is authorized to send a message on the specific transmission channel, said decoding device processor, upon detection of a detecting that the first decision value indicating indicates refusal of authorization to send the message on the specific transmission channel, analyzing the response signal to determine whether a second decision value is included therein authorizing

the mobile terminal to send the message on another transmission channel and indicating which other transmission channels are available, wherein said second decision value in the response signal is encoded using at least one signature character sequence orthogonal to the first set of signature character sequences, and wherein the at least one signature character sequence used for encoding the second decision value is created by multiplying only each second character of a signature character sequence of the first set of signature character sequences by -1; and

a transceiver unit sending the message to the base station on one of the transmission channels available.

37. (New) A method in accordance with claim 19, wherein the second decision value included in the response signal furthermore indicates which other transmission channels are available for use by the mobile terminal.

38. (New) A method in accordance with claim 32, wherein the second decision value included in the response signal furthermore indicates which other transmission channels are available for use by the mobile terminal.

39. (New) A method in accordance with claim 33, wherein the second decision value included in the response signal furthermore indicates which other transmission channels are available for use by the mobile terminal.